

2.

AAA A77A

NIH DIRECTOR FREDRICKSON  
ANNOUNCES HE WILL RESIGN  
W.Star/6-19-81/P.

**By Cristine Russell**  
Washington Star Staff Writer

Dr. Donald S. Fredrickson, the director of the National Institutes of Health for the last six years, today announced he will resign his post July 1.

Fredrickson said he was stepping down as director "for personal reasons."

The 56-year-old scientist was highly respected for his leadership of the NIH and its 11 health research institutes as well as for his own earlier research on cholesterol and heart disease.

Frederickson has been at the NIH for nearly two decades and also served for one year as president of the National Academy of Science's Institute of Medicine before assuming the top NIH post. Staff members indicated that he was now considering a sabbatical year at the academy.

In a speech prepared for delivery to NIH employees this morning, Fredrickson said his time at the federal research center "seems as exhilarating and worthwhile as in the summer of 1953 when I arrived," but that "the last six years, however, have been spent in the relentless company of the administrative burdens of the director.

"It is time," he said, "to shed them for awhile lest I forget completely how to be a scientist and a physician."

Fredrickson said he sent a letter to President Reagan yesterday in-

forming him of his intentions, saying that he was "most grateful for the continuing trust which you and Presidents Ford and Carter have extended in allowing me to lead this remarkable institution."

The post of NIH director has generally been considered a non-political appointment in the Department of Health and Human Services.